Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants thank the Examiner for another opportunity to discuss the claims on April 11, 2007, in view of the applicants' specification. The Examiner stated that he will enter the present Response without issuing an Advisory Action.

Section 112 Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 21, because they allegedly contain new subject matter. At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the specification at page 6, lines 18-21, only discloses breaking the cycle, and this definitely does not correspond to "displaying the same received frame" if the count is greater than the threshold.

Applicants note that the specification at page 14, lines 4-10, describes the following regarding FIG. 3:

> "Accordingly, scintillation processor 32 compares the previously buffered filtered frame (f-1)' with the present camera frame(f). If Equation 1 is satisfied, on a pixel by pixel basis, and if suppression is not suspended in accordance with the algorithm listed in table 1, then **a presently filtered frame(f)' is delivered to display 34**, on a pixel by pixel basis. If, on the other hand, suppression is suspended due to an excessive amount of false-positives, then **a presently unfiltered frame(f) is sent to display 34**, on a pixel by pixel basis."

As described above, if suppression is not suspended, then a presently filtered frame(f)' is delivered to display 34. **On the other hand, if suppression is suspended due to an excessive amount of false-positives, then a presently unfiltered frame(f) is sent to display 34**.

The term "excessive amount of false-positive" refers to the counter exceeding a predetermined threshold count for substituting pixel values. This is described, for example, in the specification at page 5, lines 7-23. This is also shown in FIG. 1, for example, as step 11 receiving a frame of pixels, and step 14 substituting pixel values identified as having scintillation noise. Step 15 uses a counter to count the number of substituted pixel values. As described in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 5-21, the invention attempts to eliminate false positives. This is done by monitoring the number of scintillation pixels that are substituted on a frame-by-frame basis. If the substitution count exceeds a threshold, then all pixel substitutions are suspended for one frame. This allows the unfiltered value of every pixel to be placed into a single video buffer, and breaks the cycle of the system false-positives.

The specification, at page 14, lines 4-10, explicitly states that scintillation processor 32 compares the previously buffered filtered frame(f-1)' with the present camera frame(f). If suppression is not suspended, then filtered frame(f)' is delivered to display 34. **If, on the other hand, suppression is suspended due to false-positives, then a presently unfiltered frame(f) is sent to display 34.**

Accordingly, applicants propose to amend **FIG. 3**, as enclosed, to reflect this description. No new matter has been added.

As described in the specification at page 15, lines 9-15 (regarding **FIG. 4**), both the filtered and the unfiltered current camera frames are stored in buffer 41 and buffer 33, respectively. **The scintillation test of processor 42 is between the unfiltered previous frame(f-1) and the present frame(f).** FIG. 4 shows that frame(f-1) is sent to scintillation processor 42. The only way for the scintillation processor to receive this frame (f-1) is for that frame (f-1) to have come from buffer 41.

With respect to **FIG. 4**, it is also noted that original claim 19 recites "**a second buffer [41] is coupled to the processor [42] for storing a previously received frame of pixels [(f-1)] in which the pixels are free-of any modification by the processor,**"

Accordingly, applicants propose to amend **FIG. 4** as shown in substituted FIG. 4. No new matter has been added.

Drawings:

Applicants propose to replace FIGS. 3 and 4 with substituted FIGS. 3 and 4, as enclosed. No new matter has been included.

Specification:

For reasons described above, applicants believe that the Abstract does not include new subject matter.
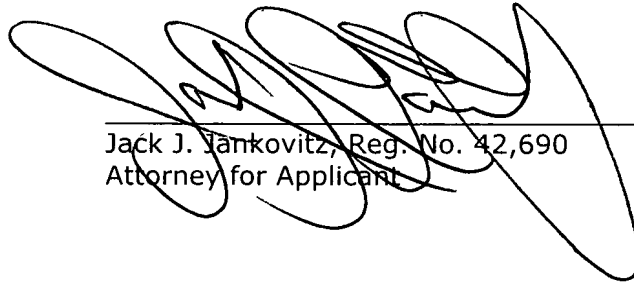
Claim 21:

As requested, original claim 21 has been amended by deleting "same" from the claim. Claim 21 has been canceled, because its features are now included in amended claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack J. Yankovitz, Reg. No. 42,690
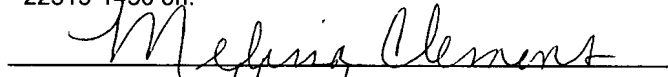Attorney for Applicant

JJJ/mc

Attachments: Substituted FIGS. 3 and 4

Dated: April 16, 2007

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Melissa Clement

4/16/07